

COURSE OVERVIEW

Over the course of four weeks, students will cover an extensive range of college selection and admissions assignments and material addressing all aspects of the application process including essay writing, interviewing, strategic planning and communications, school lists and professional resumes. The components build on each other and will be covered in a logical, chronological order. Times spent in each area may vary depending on the needs of the class, and there will be some overlap as components are revisited and student work is revised and resubmitted. ***Application essays receive special attention, and students should plan to do writing throughout the month-long class.***

CLASS SIZE AND SCHEDULE

Mercer Education's *COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PREP CAMP* for high school students entering senior year meets for 2.5 hours per day from 3:30-6pm, twice a week (Tuesdays and Fridays) for four weeks for a total of approximately 20 hours of focused college counseling and admissions preparation. The class size is limited to six students total so that students can benefit from each other's experiences while still receiving personalized attention. If there is adequate enrollment (which there usually is), we may open an additional Wednesday/Saturday (3:30pm/9:30am) group. Unlike our other camps, this 4-week course is only offered in Session II of our camp program. As spaces are extremely limited (capped at six students), it tends to fill up, so please contact us early if you wish to participate.

DETAILS

A major focus of the course is to encourage students to take charge of the application process immediately. For example, in order to "hit the ground running," students will receive an application writing assignment to complete and bring with them to the first day of classes. Assignments are designed to engage students, to push them to identify criteria for schools of interest, improve their understanding of what constitutes an impressive application essay, and provide direction and encouragement as they attend to multiple tasks. Over the course

of four weeks, students follow an accelerated schedule that provides a comprehensive look at the process and the requirements leading to successful college admissions.

Because many seniors are not fully prepared to meet the deadlines that they will soon be facing, this camp, taught by Eric Cohen, Mercer Education’s director, is designed to follow a fast-paced curriculum that instructs students in making informed decisions regarding college selection and in working on all the necessary components of the application process within a compressed period of time. The course objective is to enhance the likelihood that students will select colleges best-suited to them and that they will gain admission through informed selection, thorough preparation, and quality work that will impress admissions counselors, selection committees, and alumni interviewers—anyone who reviews and must choose from the thousands of applicants each year those students whose applications stand out from the crowd.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **OVERVIEW** – Taking ownership of the application process, pinpointing tasks and deadlines.
- ▶ **APPLICATION ESSAYS** – Directing special focus on application essays and revisions in order to complete multiple polished personal statements receiving extensive feedback from Mercer Education’s director.
- ▶ **COLLEGE SELECTION** – Developing/refining a list of schools to best fit each student’s objectives.
- ▶ **PROFESSIONAL RESUME AND PERSONAL PROFILE** – Thinking through goals and preparing necessary documentation for academic advisors and recommenders.
- ▶ **INTERVIEWING** – Learning what interviewers are looking for and conducting mock interviews.
- ▶ **OTHER** – Exploring long-term career considerations in relation to the application process.

Note: This is a selective program that does require a degree of writing competence on the part of the participating students. Prior to acceptance for enrollment, Mercer Education may request that students submit a writing sample based on an assignment we will provide. Those students who do not quite meet this level of writing proficiency will be encouraged to work directly with teachers in private (one-on-one) classes.